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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, March 6, 1996)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign Lord, guide the vital page in history that will be written today. As we begin this new day, we declare our dependence and interdependence. We confess with humility that we are totally dependent on You, dear God. We could not breathe a breath, think a thought, or exercise dynamic leadership without Your constant and consistent blessing. We praise You for the gifts of intellect, education, and experience. All You have done in us has been in preparation for what You want to do through us now.

And yet, we know we could not achieve the excellence You desire without the tireless efforts of others. We thank You for our families and friends, the faithful and loyal staffs that make it possible for the Senators to function so effectively, and for all who make the work of this Senate run smoothly. Help us express our gratitude by singing our appreciation for the unsung heroes and heroines who do ordinary tasks with extraordinary diligence. We praise You for the gift of life and those who make work a joy. In the name of Him who taught us the greatness of being servant leaders. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, there will be a period for morning busi-

ness until the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each with the following exceptions: Senator FEINSTEIN for 15 minutes; Senator REID for 15 minutes; Senator DORGAN for 20 minutes; Senator BAUCUS for 10 minutes; and Senator THOMAS for 30 minutes.

At the hour of 11 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the pending motion to proceed to Senate Resolution 227 regarding the extension of the Whitewater Committee. It is also our intent for the Senate to begin consideration of S. 942, a small business regulatory relief bill. This is legislation, I believe, that will enjoy overwhelming bipartisan support. I believe it was reported out of the Small Business Committee unanimously, and we hope that we can get an early agreement to proceed on that legislation.

It is also possible that a bill to temporarily extend the debt ceiling will be brought up. If so, rollcall votes will occur during today, and Members should expect that to happen.

Again, I want to emphasize that we hope to get that debt ceiling legislation up and considered. If not, it could conceivably be brought up on Friday. So I hope we can get cooperation in bringing up both the small business regulatory relief bill and the debt ceiling.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order, I request the Chair notify the Senator when he has 3 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). The Senator from Nevada.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LISTING MORATORIUM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, about 11 months ago, I stood on this floor and indicated to this body that it was about to make a crucial mistake, a critical mistake. At that time the U.S. Senate was considering a moratorium on the listing of endangered species. Those people at that time who were calling for a so-called time out in the listing of endangered species, I do not think, or I hope, did not understand the consequences. They did not want to wait for reauthorization of this list. They did not want to wait for the reauthorization to take place through the legislative process. They said they could not wait for reforms to be deliberated and drafted by the committees of jurisdiction. In fact, Mr. President, they could not even wait for the Environment and Public Works Committee to consider the moratorium.

It was brought to the floor without a single hearing. There was nothing done in the way of a deliberative process to point out the inherent weaknesses of what was about to be done. In sum, they started, without justification, a piecemeal dismantling of the act, which is to jeopardize forever the existence of various species of plants and animals.

My colleagues reacted by giving pieces of history where the Endangered Species Act did not work well, and thereafter imposed the moratorium on any further listing of endangered species. One Member of the House of Representatives claimed at that time that "we must put regulators on a leash."

Mr. President, there are a number of ways to control regulators, but the path taken was, in my opinion, the worst path. The path taken was to cause damaging and unreasonable requirements. In fact, we had to simply stand by and watch extinction take its toll. No doubt that Member of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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